

**NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY
2 COURT STREET
NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03060**

LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

February 2, 2021
7:00 P.M.

WEBEX Meeting Information:

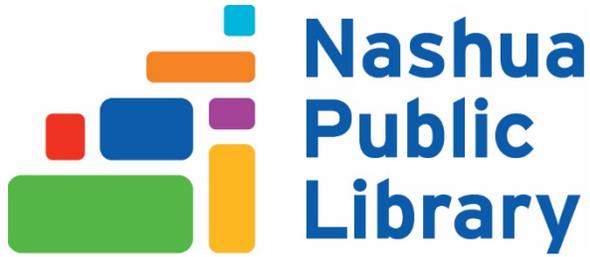
Join by phone

1-415-655-0001 US Toll

Meeting number: 182 953 8461 Meeting password: 89677872

AGENDA

1. Review of monthly bills and trust fund requests
2. Approval of Minutes from January meeting
3. Discussion regarding resuming in-person services
4. Discussion regarding memo from Mayor Donchess and budget strategy
5. Other business



February 2, 2021
Director's Report

Department updates:

- Curbside service continues to be very busy, we are averaging more than 100 curbside deliveries on Mondays and Tuesdays; Saturdays are our busiest days at 18-20 curbside deliveries per hour.
- Our new series of computer classes about Google applications have been very popular with 8-11 customers registered for each session.
- The Youth Services team is working with the Friends of the Library to plan a youth component to Nashua Reads for this year, they will be picking some age appropriate titles related to this year's theme and including related programming in the fall calendar.

Administration updates:

- Plans are developing for a celebration of our 50th birthday in September, including banners on the plaza, an exhibit of library photos and artifacts from the last 50 years and an online portal for our patrons to submit their library memories. We are also hoping to plan a concert if circumstances allow.
- The Mayor did not authorize us filling the vacant Youth Services Supervisor position but we can revisit that request as part of our budget discussions this spring.
- I submitted our usual projects to the Capital Improvements committee last month: Brick repointing, HVAC renovation and digital controls and the plaza renovation. This year I also added window replacements to our 6 year outlook for capital projects although I don't have any cost estimates for that project. At a future meeting I would like to discuss the possibility of hiring a library building consultant to work with us on creating a full plan for capital improvements and future maintenance; it may be appropriate at this point to propose our projects as a full renovation and not piecemeal projects.

December statistics:

Curbside customers: 1786 for a total of 5234 items
665 movies viewed on Kanopy
863 eBooks, Audiobooks and magazines borrowed from Hoopla
6097 eBooks, audiobooks and magazines borrowed from OverDrive

2374 TumbleBooks were read

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY

A regular meeting of the Board of Library Trustees was held at 7:00 pm on January 5, 2021. Due to the library's closure to the public related to COVID-19 the meeting was held virtually using Cisco Webex Meetings.

Trustees present were:

Linda Laflamme (Chairman)
David Pinsonneault
Scott Jaquith
Kristin Kane
Manuel Espitia
Paul Bergeron
Padmaja Kunapareddy

Also present were Library Director Jennifer McCormack, , who took the minutes. Three members of the public joined via phone.

Chairman Laflamme called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

James Gaul and Andrea MacKay from Boston Advisors gave an update on the performance of the Board's trust fund investments. Mr. Gaul and Ms. MacKay recommended a change to the Board's investment policy and will forward a draft version of their recommendations which the Board will discuss at their next meeting.

The Board examined the bills and, upon a motion duly made by Mr. Pinsonneault, seconded by Ms. Kane, unanimously:

RESOLVED that bills in the amount of **\$27,989.91** be approved for payment from the FY2020 **Regular** budget and bills in the amount of **\$114.99** be approved for payment from the **Fines** budget.

The vote was taken by voice roll call which resulted as follows:

Yea: Linda Laflamme (Chairman)
Manuel Espitia
Kristin Kane
Scott Jaquith
David Pinsonneault
Paul Bergeron
Padmaja Kunapareddy

Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Pinsonneault, seconded by Mr. Espitia, the Board unanimously **approved the minutes of the December 1, 2020 meeting.**

The vote was taken by voice roll call which resulted as follows:

Yea: Linda Laflamme (Chairman)
Manuel Espitia
Kristin Kane
Scott Jaquith
David Pinsonneault
Paul Bergeron
Padmaja Kunapareddy

Upon a motion by Mr. Pinsonneault, seconded by Mr. Jaquith the Board unanimously approved a **tuition reimbursement request for Ashlee Lykansion in the amount of \$1500.**

The vote was taken by voice roll call which resulted as follows:

Yea: Linda Laflamme (Chairman)
Manuel Espitia
Kristin Kane
Scott Jaquith
David Pinsonneault
Paul Bergeron
Padmaja Kunapareddy

The Board discussed plans for reopening the building once conditions allow that to happen safely and instructed Director McCormack to invite a representative from the Public Health Department to attend the next meeting and make a presentation to the Board. Director McCormack will also provide current guidance from the NH State Library. The Director also

reminded the Board that many of the public spaces in the library are currently being used as staff workspaces which will impact any future reopening plans.

There being no further business to come before the Board, upon a motion duly made by Mr. Bergeron and seconded by Ms. Kane, the Trustees unanimously:

RESOLVED: That the meeting be adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Attest _____

David K. Pinsonneault, Secretary

From: [Telerski, Noah](#)
To: [McCormack, Jennifer](#)
Subject: FW: The State is Hitting Nashua's Hardworking Taxpayers with an \$11 Million Tax Hike
Date: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 3:21:45 PM

Hi Jen,

Cheryl asked me to send this along to you so you could share it.

Have a nice afternoon,
Noah

From: James Donchess <jim@jimdonchess.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2021 3:17 PM
To: Telerski, Noah <telerskin@nashuanh.gov>
Subject: The State is Hitting Nashua's Hardworking Taxpayers with an \$11 Million Tax Hike

CAUTION: This email came from outside of the organization. Do not click links/open attachments if source is unknown.

January 26, 2021

**The State is Cutting School Aid,
Raising Costs, and Increasing
Your Tax Bill**



The State of New Hampshire is hitting Nashua with a 5.5% property tax increase.

The State is cutting the school aid Nashua receives by \$7.4 million (from \$40.2 million to \$32.8 million) and is raising our bill for the State pension system by \$4.4 million (from \$25 million to over \$29 million).

This \$11.8 million hit is coming at exactly the wrong time. The City is also suffering from increased expenses and reduced revenue because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

An \$11.8 million hit will cause local property tax bills to go up 5.5% next year. This is before we even get to any increases in the City's operating budget. You will see this increase in your December 2021 property tax bill.

We are working with Nashua's legislative delegation to try to reduce the impact, but there is no guarantee that there will be any change.

[\\$7.4 Million in Cuts to School Funding Hurts our Students](#)

The State is cutting school aid to Nashua by \$7.4 million per year starting on July 1.

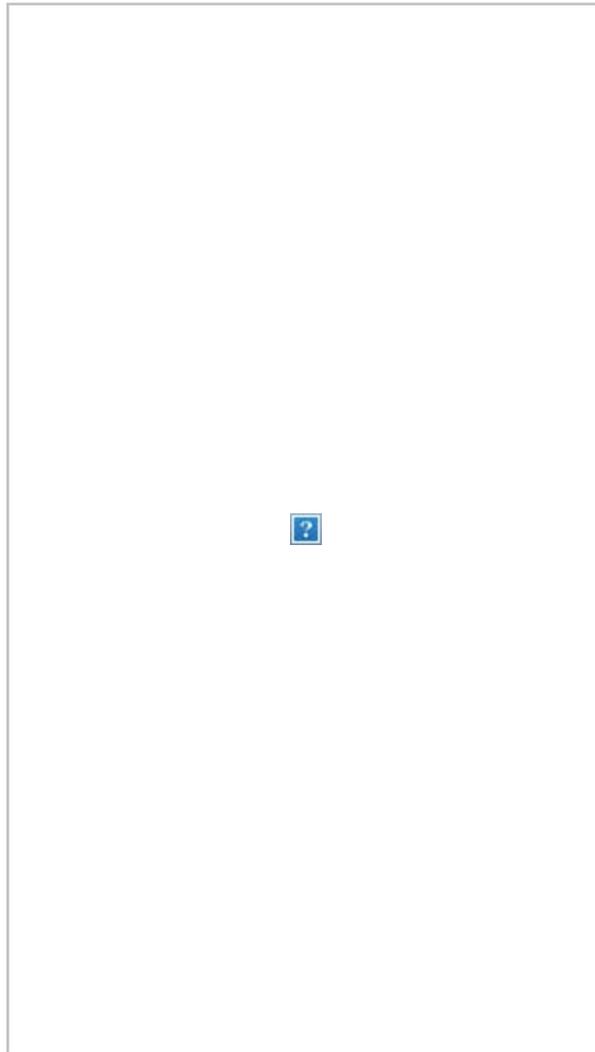
The State is cutting the Adequacy Aid the City receives from \$37.3 million to \$32.8 million. On top of that, the State has decided not to renew the \$2.9 million in additional aid Nashua received over the last two years.

We don't know what learning will look like for our students in the coming months, but we know that many kids have suffered learning loss during the pandemic. Whether the kids continue to learn remotely, transition to a hybrid model, or are safely able to return to in-school learning full-time, these cuts make it harder for Nashua to provide them with the services and education that meet their needs to build careers and meaningful lives.

[The State Broke Its Pension Promise — Costing Nashua \\$74 Million Already](#)

Nearly all City employees are part of the state pension system. When the system was created, the State promised to pay 35% of all pension costs for any city or town that joined. Because of the 35% promise, Nashua joined the State pension system, along with virtually every other city and town in the state.

Then about 10 years ago, the State broke its promise and stopped paying its share. This broken promise has already cost Nashua taxpayers a total of around \$74 million, and starting on July 1, the City will be paying the State over \$29 million per year for pensions.



[We Are Paying to Make Up for State Mismanagement of Pension Assets](#)

The State has mismanaged its pension assets. Right now, the NHRS has enough money to pay about 60% of all the pension benefits for all current and retired public employees. Don't worry if you or a loved one has a state pension, the NHRS has \$9 billion in its fund and is paying people the benefits they have earned, while cities and towns and public employees continue to contribute hundreds of millions every year.

A law passed by the State legislature requires the NHRS be fully funded by 2039. This means the State needs to build up an additional \$6 billion in pension assets. This is where the most recent downshifting comes into play. Since the State is not contributing, cities like Nashua, who were already making up the difference, need to pay

even more to fully fund the NHRS.

[We Are Working to Reduce or Eliminate the State's 5.5% Property Tax Increase](#)

This \$11.8 million hit and 5.5% local property tax bill increase comes before we even get to any increases in the City budget.

However, we are working to try to reduce the burden of these costs. We are working with our legislative delegation to try to restore the lost school aid and to reduce or eliminate the State's increase in the City's pension bill. Our delegation has introduced bills to help reduce the payments the City has to make while still ensuring the long-term viability of the pension fund. If these bills pass in the state legislature, they could help prevent the City's pension bill from skyrocketing like it has for the last decade.

COVID-19 has been hard for many families in our City, and local businesses have taken hits too. You can know that I am working hard to make sure our City continues to provide all of the services you rely on, without increasing your tax burden more than it needs to be.

Jim Donchess

Name | Company | Phone | Fax | Email | Website

STAY CONNECTED



basicImage

basicImage



James Donchess | 4 Rockland Street, Nashua, NH 03064

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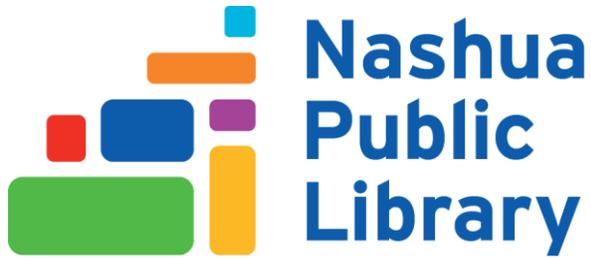
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February 2, 2021

To: Library Board of Trustees
From: Jenn Hosking, Assistant Director
Re: Miscellaneous Donations Trust Request

Amount: \$650

Itemized: \$500 summer reading t-shirts for staff
\$150 permanent sign for Cuddle Corner area in the Children's Room

Purpose: The library would like to purchase summer reading t-shirts from the Collaborative Summer Library Program for staff to be worn at programs, events and as general marketing. The Cuddle Corner expenditure was approved at the February 4, 2020 meeting however the sign was not purchased. This is an updated request for the same fund amount.